

IN FOCUS

Volume 4, Number 5

Jamaican Canadian Association

February, 1996

A non-profit community organization
Serving the Black/Caribbean Community for 33 years

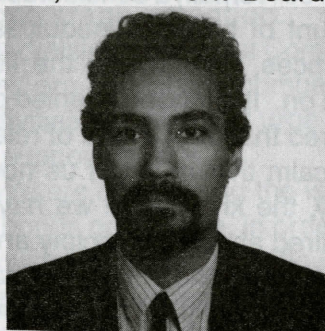
JCA hires new Executive Director

By Billroy Powell

Mr. Akwatu Khenti, an experienced community worker, is the new Executive Director at the Jamaican Canadian Association. Mr. Khenti was hired in December of 1995 to coordinate and oversee the day to day activities of the Association's social services programs.

Mr. Khenti comes to the JCA with several years of experience in administration, public policy, and education, community/organizational development complimented by his post graduate degree in political economy. He has worked with various organizations and public institutions within the African Canadian Community specifi-

cally and Metro Toronto generally. Positions he has held previously include: Executive Director, Executive Consultant, Human Rights Co-ordinator, Curriculum Researcher and Writer and Community Development Worker. Mr. Khenti has worked for the following organizations: the Jamaican Canadian Association, North York Board of



Akwatu Khenti

Education, National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Cdn Inc., National Council of Trinidad and Tobago Organizations and the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa.

With his experience and knowledge of the African Canadian Community, and of the JCA in particular, Mr. Khenti embodies the qualities and tools necessary to address the fundamental challenges in funding and programming which face the JCA at this point in time. JCA is confident he will make a positive impact on the direction of the programs and on the overall administration of the Association. We welcome Mr. Khenti into the JCA.

Quarterly General Meeting

Sunday March 10
2 p.m. sharp
at
our new home-to-be
995 Arrow Road
(at Finch)

Colin Powell

Tickets are still on sale for Gen. Colin Powell's speaking engagement at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, May 16, 1996. The tickets cost \$100 each, and are payable by cash, Visa or Mastercard. Sorry, no reserved tickets. Call the JCA at (416) 661-2001.

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Harry Gairey: A Jamaican who made a difference in Canada

If there is a Jamaican Canadian who embodied the full expression of what it means to be Jamaican, then it's the late Mr. Harry Gairey who fits the profile. His will and courage to challenge the powers that be in his lifetime is today a legacy that this generation is proud of and future generations will embrace.

The city of Toronto conveys through the leadership of Mayor Barbara Hall, that Mr. Gairey's vision and struggle for a just society is acknowledged. The city also rewarded him by changing the name of the Alexandra Outdoor Pool at 275 Bathurst Street to that of Harry Ralph Gairey Ice Rink.

This gesture is the result of Mr. Gairey protesting the barring of blacks including his own son from a Skating Rink on the grounds that they were Black.

The task of transforming attitudes and behaviour is the most difficult challenge any individual or groups can encounter. Mr. Gairey dedicated his life to that task. For almost 75 years, he dedicated himself to fight

against discrimination in Metro Toronto.

A founding member of New Citizenship Association and The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters of Canada as well as, being a member of several other organizations including the Jamaican Canadian Association, Mr. Gairey was committed to positioning himself in areas where he could challenge the injustices of the society which he chose to make his home.

Today many leaders and members of the Black community enjoy a much more tolerable society, despite the fact that there still remain a considerable amount of barriers: inequities, injustices, racism and the list goes on. It cannot be denied or ignored that the climate of relative calm that many of us now enjoy, the knowledge we have acquired about this society and its systems, and strategies that we are currently using to correct the wrongs would not have been possible if it were not for the Harry Gaireys of the past.

It can be argued that 75 years is a high price for one individual to pay for a simple request i.e. to be respected as a black person. But then it is said that Jesus gave his life for the redemption of man's sins. It might be inappropriate to compare Mr. Gairey to Jesus. The point is, however, Jesus was unselfish and so was Mr. Gairey, which is symbolic of Jamaicans. Therefore, the struggle of the oppressed and dispossessed people of the world is also the struggle

of Jamaicans.

In true Harry Gairey style another Jamaican last month (December) took unpresidential action to delay the passage of the omnibus bill that was being forced through the Ontario legislature by the Mike Harris conservative Government.

This Jamaican was MPP Alvin Curling. Mr. Curling put himself on the line by refusing to leave the legislature before the government finally got the message that the people of Ontario needed to be heard on this particular bill. As a result of his action the government was forced to hold public hearings across the province which brought about some 160 amendments to the bill. He is barred from the legislature for about three months, as a consequence. This goes to show, everything in life comes with a price especially when it is for the good of the majority of the people. However, we all know that for democracy there is a price and on many occasion that price is death. Therefore, on this occasion barred from the Ontario legislature is a small price to pay.

To be Jamaican means to stand up for our rights and freedom and that of all human beings irrespective of skin colour, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, beliefs and social classification. Mr. Gairey's ideas and vision of a just society will not die and cannot die because to be Harry Ralph Gairey, he would first have to be Jamaican.

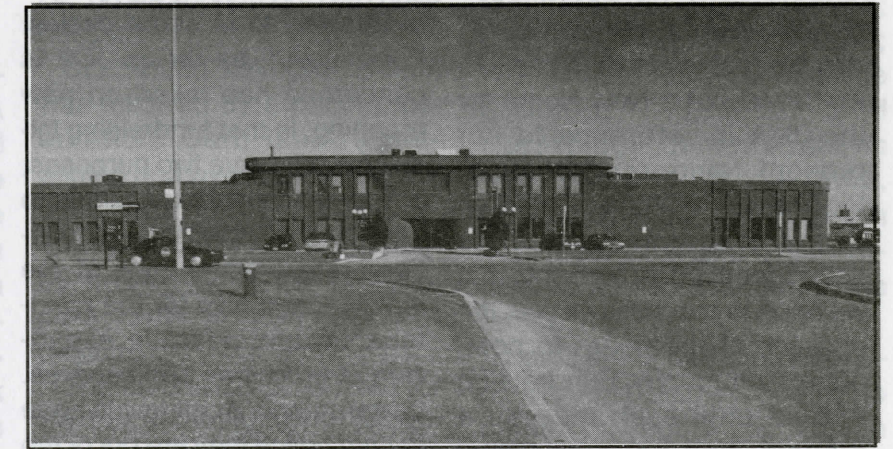
March 5 closing for new building

By Karl Fuller, President

The JCA once more finds itself at a critical crossroad. It has taken steps to acquire the lovely building shown to the right, a monument of our pride and a statement of progressiveness. We hope to take possession on March 5 and look forward to that day with enthusiasm. Those of you who were able to join us on location recently have expressed your deep satisfaction at the decision to purchase a building.

The major task ahead has to do with raising the required funds to carry out extensive renovations to the warehouse portion of the building. This would create space for the Community Centre which would include banquet facility, ample provision for youth recreational programs. At the members meeting on January 14, I provided you with a layout plan of how the space might be utilized. The next step is to have cost estimates prepared, illustrating the cost of carrying out the required work. While those costs have not been established, you will agree that significant fundraising is the only route through which we will get the work done. I was most gratified by the demonstration of financial contributions made at the meeting. We are moving forward aggressively to close the transaction, make public announcements and fundraising appeals immediately after closing on March 5.

We anticipate that we will face grave financial problems in maintaining overhead costs.



995 Arrow Road has existing tenants and potential banquet facilities.

Therefore, it is essential that banquet facility becomes operational as soon as possible.

Over the next months Fundraising is going to receive front stage attention. The Fundraising and Social Committees are planning a number of activities and events, I urge you to support them.

We are considering the issue of bonds once more, in order to provide immediate cash flow for meeting renovation costs. If you have some cash which you will not need for 3-5 years and you are willing to invest in your Association, please give me a call - I'd like to speak with you.

As I write, you are aware, that our community is experiencing shock over the amount of violent incidents that have occurred. The tragic death of Ismael Spence, the questionable shooting by police, of Tommy Anthony Barnett and a host of violent robberies are but a few incidents in a string of unrest over recent days. Please pray that our people will return to old

fashioned values where a human life is treated as the precious gift that it is. We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of S.I.U. investigations to clarify unanswered questions as to why young Tommy Anthony Barnett was killed by police.

As I close, I want to welcome Akwatu Khenti as our Executive Director. As you know, Akwatu worked with us a few years ago. He has brought his usual enthusiastic style back to JCA, and has defined for us a most pragmatic agenda to help us in achieving the goals to which the organization aspires. Please give him your support as you interact with him.

Again, let me remind you - Arrow Road will be yours in a few weeks time. We need your support more than ever before. Let our pride in owning this building inspire us to contribute in any way we can. We are depending on you.

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Billroy Powell, Karl Fuller, Sandra
Carnegie-Douglas and Leroy
Wright.

Fundraising 10K walk on May 5

By Norma Larro, Fundraising Chair

In the last issue of INFOCUS we talk about a New Home for the JCA in reference to our present temporary location. Since then, we have moved on to the next phase where we have identified a property that we hope to purchase. It was the decision of the board to postpone Community Fundraising Appeal until such time as a property had been identified and acquired. We have now identified and offered on a property, however, this property will require extensive renovations to meet the needs of the organization and the community. As we speak, Fundraising strategies are being developed by Fundraising Committee and the Board. Some of these initiatives will see us working with different individuals from the community as well as many different community organization that share our vision for a permanent community home and are willing to work to make it happen! Dupont Street, no matter its shortcomings, is sorely missed and our members and the community is misplaced without a CENTRE, a place to meet, greet and have fun. I dare say, the community is looking to JCA to provide the leadership in acquiring a Community Centre.

We recognize the magnitude of the job ahead and it is obvious the organization must move into a Fundraising Mode immediately. In my opinion, the all consuming focus of the organization, for the next two years, at least, will be FUNDRAISING or FUND DEVELOPMENT, as it

is referred to in some circles. Fundraising, as far as JCA is concerned has taken on new meaning, in that fundraising initiatives will serve two purposes, one being capital expenditure to finance the extensive renovations and maintenance of the building, and also for the maintenance and possible expansion of programs and services. Governments at all levels have served notice they are out of the funding business and have relegated the responsibilities for social service delivery to the community.

Although a financial plan has not yet been developed by the Board around this project, we recognize that acquiring a property will be a giant step for the organization and the community. We also recognize the necessity for responsible planning for the long and short term to ensure uninterrupted of program and services and the solvency of the organization. We see this CENTRE as fulfilling the many diverse needs of our members and the community, serving as a home for Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaican, a place to meet relax and enjoy fellowship, for young and old to come together and enjoy a meeting of the minds over issues or non issues, as the case may be, or whatever else might be ailing us.

We are appealing to trades people who are available and could volunteer some hours during the renovation to call the JCA Office to put their name on the list together with their area of skill. We anticipate more in-

formation will be available at the next quarterly meeting, and in upcoming issues of INFOCUS.

Our vision and hopefully yours; is that this CENTRE will be open and accessible to everyone. We are working hard on being more inclusive and trying our best not to exclude anyone. It is our hope that all who enter the doors of the CENTRE will be welcomed as a member of the family and given a warm JAMAICAN welcome, you know the kind I mean. Not just paying lip service, but really being WARM AND WELCOMING.

Fundraising will be kicking into full gear with the planned Community Walk, Jog, Run scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 1996 at G. Ross Lord Park in the SPORTSFIELD AREA (Dufferin North of Finch) we will assemble there, ready to begin the trek at 9:30 a.m. sharp!

All Jamaicans, from first generation to infinity, married with or without children, everybody in the house is ordered out on May 5th. It's for a very good cause, come join the fun.

For the first time, this year, as part of the fundraising strategy, we are introducing a registration fee of \$15.00 for participants in addition to the \$0.10 per km to walk. Pledge forms can be mailed out on request, are available from any Board Member or can be picked up at the office. We are encouraging all registrants to participate in the fundraising by taking a Pledge Form to get sponsors for their trek. Community organizations

See "More...", page 8

Ways to build a healthy community

By Pam Powell, Women's Committee Chair

Black Women's Health Forum Day, sponsored by the JCA Women's Committee, was held on November 18, 1995. The aim of the forum was to raise the awareness of Black women and their families about health issues, specifically those affecting our community and the impact of societal factors on Black women's health. The forum was held at "Women's Health in Women's Hands," Community Health Centre. This event was very successful with 113 participants.

The program began with a rousing speech by Dr. Glenda Simms. She gave an overview of the societal factors that impact on the health of the Black community. Highlights from her speech included:

- that our health by racism, sexism and socio-economic issues;
- self-love and its relationship to abuse and incarceration;
- the relationship between those societal factors and our own health in our public and private lives.

Speaking to the theme of "building healthy communities" Dr. Simms challenged us to examine our current parenting practices regarding how we raise our sons as opposed to our daughters.

In addressing our economic health she mentioned the fact that the majority of Black women are poor. In instances where we have access to economic resources we need to examine how we use those resources,

i.e. do we support our own businesses?

Dr. Simms keynote speech was followed by a panel presentation. Barb Isaac's presented and overview of funding cuts to the health care system. These include cuts to long term care drug benefits, hospital cuts, and women of color projects.

She emphasized the need for the Black community to participate in community-based advocacy against the cuts to health care. Norma Clarke spoke about chronic illness and its impact on the family. She gave examples of some illnesses: hypertension, arthritis, lupus, sickle cell disease, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, diabetes.

She emphasized that dealing with chronic illnesses requires changes in the lifestyle of the individual and the family in order to cope. Some chronic illness develop due to the stress of poverty: for example, a minor illness developing into chronic illness due to inability to access prescribed medication and/or transportation to seek medical aid. Chronic illness can create additional stress in the family resulting in breakdown in family relationships unless strong support is available. She also stressed the need for the community to be supportive of each other.

A free-flowing discussion based on the panel and keynote presentation ensured with strong audience participation. The afternoon session consisted of three workshops and a plenary session: Hypertension

facilitated by June Heaven; Lupus by Cecile Osbourne; Women and AIDS by Christine Leonard. Shiatsu and Reflexology demonstrations were given by Dianne Taylor. Several other community health care agencies and organizations were represented at the forum.

Participants had the opportunity to visit display booths to obtain additional information and pamphlets.

Feedback from the evaluations were very positive and called for more events like these.

The Women's Committee continues to meet its mandate by addressing women's issues and networking with other women's groups.

Other community based workshops were held for youth, women and seniors:

Healthy Sexuality and Related Reproductive Issues: (August 14) This workshop was particularly structured for women who are members of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). Forty two women attended the workshop which was facilitated by Simone Hammond, Reproductive Health Counselor at "Women's Health in Women's Hands" Community Health Centre. Participants ranged in age from 25 to 75 years.

Youth living in the 1990s: A Discussion about Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases: (August 24) This workshop was pre-

See "Healthy...", page 10

An Open Letter to the Community

January 25, 1996 -- This past few weeks should give our community cause for grave concern. Two Black males, one a young adult of 22 and the other a child of 15, are dead. The reason for their tragic deaths remains a mystery. How should we respond to these two tragedies? We at the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) believe that these incidents are wake up calls to our community. The question we must ask ourselves in the coming days is, are we prepared as a people to heed the calls?

The death of the 15 year old, Ismael Joseph Spence, is a source of great sorrow to the JCA. We have expressed our sincere condolences to the family. We cannot relieve them of the great pain that they are now bearing, so we pray to God to strengthen them. We also want them to know that our entire community suffered a painful loss and stands with them at this moment.

Some will say that society is to blame for the apparent disdain for life displayed by the perpetrator of the crime. After all, we do not control the media, the production of school textbooks, the training of teachers etc. In response to that, we say that we surely agree. But we also say that blame and responsibility are two different things. We must hold society accountable to respect and protect our human rights and human dignity as human beings and as Canadian citizens. However, the same society that is responsible for our low social status

cannot be expected to fully protect our children. In any case, the adults in any given community are responsible for protecting their children; it is obvious that we are failing to protect ours. Not just from violence, but from self-hatred and self-inflicted damage, mis-education, mis-information (stereotypes) and mis-direction.

It is time for us to take charge of our fate and begin to protect our children, and all our people from the various forces of despair and self-destruction which are at work today.

The death of Tommy Anthony Barnett remains a mystery primarily because the police have not seen fit to release any detailed information to the community at large. Our questions are many: Why did the police shoot to kill? Could they not have shot to wound/disable? How is it that the police officers involved in the shooting were able to determine when they would be interviewed by the province's Special Investigation Unit? What accounts for sophisticated police negotiations in some situations and cruder actions in others? Does it boil down to 'Afro-phobia' as many in our community have reasonable grounds to believe?

Given past experiences, we know that if we were to engage in name-calling or come to a conclusion at this point in time, we would indeed be serving ourselves up on a platter to the social forces that are hostile to our community (such as some segments of the mass media). However, we are able to focus

upon some basic facts:

1. Canada does not have a death penalty. Yet the judgment of death has consistently been passed by officers of the law upon members of our community. Notwithstanding the judicial presumption of innocence until guilt is proven in a court of law. It appears that a disproportionate number of the people who have died at the hands of the police are Black.

2. We know in our community that Black people are treated differently from Whites by the systems of justice. If anyone doubt this, they need only read the recent report of the Commission on Systemic Racism in the Ontario Criminal Justice System. (Some may interpret this to mean that Black people commit more crimes than Whites, but that is an old argument that past statistics has repeatedly revealed to be erroneous).

We also know that within Ontario, at present, there is no place to go with our concerns and/or complaints and expect an effective response. Both the federal and provincial human rights commissions have limited means of responding to our community's concerns and protecting our human rights. The police complaints procedures are generally ineffective; and the current provincial government leaders considers Blacks to be a "special interest group" and will probably not want to meet with our community's human rights leaders and organizers in order to find ways to

See "Open...", page 10

Parents, students benefit from outreach at Shoreham Public School

By Horace Wright, CYFS Manager

Shoreham Public School is located in the Jane and Finch community in the City of North York. This community has a mixture of people from many different parts of the world, including the West and East Indies, Africa, Asia and South America. With such a diverse mix of cultures, extra support was needed for this school.

This is why the Shoreham/Brookview Caring Village Project was implemented. A group of concerned agencies, including the JCA, came together with Brookview and Shoreham public schools to form a body to deal with violence and provide academic support. Out of this evolved the Shoreham Project, a program developed by the Caribbean Youth and Family Services of the Jamaican Canadian Association, in collaboration with Shoreham Public School.

The project is serviced by interns from various colleges and universities in Ontario. The interns bring a wide variety of skills that allow them to support the school and its students in many different areas. These areas include: conducting individual and group counseling in life and social skills; assisting children with behavioral and academic problems; and providing emotional support when needed. Currently the Benchmark Program in mathematics is being run by the interns at the school during lunch time and



Shoreham Public School officials appreciate the efforts of the JCA and the university and college interns who provide services for students and their parents. Pictured from left, Vice-principal Sophia Theofilaktidis; interns Christine Nelson, Melissa Johnson, and Marcia Cameron; CYFS Manager Horace Wright (back); Principal Bettie Bowie; and intern Charles End (back).

after school, to help grade 4 students who are required to take Ontario's annual Benchmark Mathematics Exam in April.

The interns aid the Shoreham students in their education and their emotional functioning as well as conduct outreach to parents in the community. Counseling for parents and children facing difficult issues has proven to be more necessary in the 90s. Evidence of the impact of the program has been verbalized by parents, teachers and other school officials. One parent said: "it's a good awakening to know that you can talk to someone that understands you, I feel good knowing that I don't have to travel far for help. I didn't know that these services were being provided in the Jane/Finch area and that they are free. I hope that these serv-

ices offered at Shoreham will not be affected by the recent provincial cutbacks".

In addition, one teacher stated: "I have someone to talk to who has worked with the students and are familiar with their difficulties which helps me to deal in a more constructive manner. The students and myself have benefited from the support from the Caribbean Youth and Family Services. I look forward to the continued working relationship."

The Shoreham Project will run to the end of the school year and resumes in September 1996. For more information please contact the Caribbean Youth and Family Services at (416) 740-1558 or Shoreham Public Schools at (416) 395-2870.

More ideas needed on raising funds for JCA

continued from page 4

and businesses can pool their pledges in order to either win prizes or to get the name of their organization or business on the Donor Plaque.

The donor Plaque which I have been talking about over these months, will be ready for unveiling soon, when you see it you will want to be part of it. For your name to be inscribed on the Plaque you must have donated at least \$1000.00 to the Building Fund beginning January 1, 1996. You are also invited to make your donation in Memory of a loved one.

Details on the prizes and how to get your name on the plaque will be published at a later date, once the details have been worked out by the Fundraising Committee and the Board. Upcoming issues of INFOCUS will carry up to the minute information and progress reports, watch for it. The Walk Subcommittee is of course very busy but unfortunately there is still lots of work to be done and we are suffering from a critical lack of volunteers. We can have all the ideas in the world about fundraisers, but this is a volunteer organization and if people are not willing to come out and do their little bit to help, how far do you think we are going to get, the bottom line is we need people on this committee, otherwise we will have no one to blame when things do not happen as they should.

Effective planning is a major contributor to having a successful fundraiser and over the past few months the fundraising committee has been working si-

multaneously on planning two projects. The Community Walk coming up in May and the Week-End Club, which was discussed at a prior meeting. The Club details have been finalized and approved by the Board, once the building has been acquired and renovated, it will become operational, watch for that opening.

We will need quite a number of volunteers to assist us in supervising and managing different aspect of the walk, as well as the events planned for the day, we hope you will call the office and volunteer "you". We are looking forward to this event with great expectations and encourage each and every one of you to invite your friends, neighbours and organizations to participate. We ardently encourage you to spread the word about the walk, to your co-workers, close friends, acquaintance, colleagues, you may be pleasantly surprised, our aim is to bring out 1,000 Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica. Can we do it? It will be up to each and everyone of us, so let's get to work.

If walking is not your thing, then jog or run, glide or slide whatever, just be there to participate. We are working hard to make this a fun day for the entire family, everyone is encouraged to participate. We are promoting this Walk as a **maximum community participation event** so who wouldn't want to be invited to be part of this!

Fundraising has become very competitive and is now a career for many which involves state of

the art marketing and promotional skills. This organization faces stiff competition from established charities like hospitals, church, child welfare etc. who often use professional Fundraisers. Future fundraising activities in addition to the Bake and Book sale variety, will have to include more and more of the "Gala" types in order to bring in the dollars we need.

The challenge before us is to think of new and innovative fundraisers, people don't want to be putting out for the same things year after year, they want change, variety, excitement and a good reason to fork out \$60.00 or \$100.00 to support a fundraiser, the challenge for us is to find some spice to nice it up, to keep our donors interested. Can we do it? If we all put our heads together, I think we can.

We will be looking out for you at the next fundraising meeting to plan for the challenges together. We meet on the third Monday, of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at 1122 Finch Ave. West, Suite 17-19, Telephone 661-2001. need more information, call the office and leave a message and a member of the fundraising team will get back to you. Some upcoming Fundraising Meeting dates are as follows, please mark them in your diary: February 19, 1996; March 18, 1996; April 15, 1996 see you there!

Help someone gain Canadian experience

*By Heather Williams and Lisa Chin
Quee, ISAP Counsellors*

The key to building our community is networking. Like the saying goes-she'll tell two friends and they'll tell two friends and so and so. Most people do not acquire employment through newspapers and employment agencies but through friends and acquaintances. For those who are new to Canada it may prove to be quite challenging especially in these economic times. However, those of us who have been living in Canada for a while, may have a better grasp of what is expected with in Canadian Society. For what is usually reiterated is "We need Canadian experience" although you may have 20 yrs. of expertise in a particular field. Those with Canadian experience could help to set a new comer on the right track;

* perhaps you are working in the same field, your experience could be used to guide these individuals

* maybe they are looking for these skills at your place of employment

*you are self employed and you need the skills listed below to expand your business potential.

If you have any information you believe would facilitate the integration of the following individuals into the job market please call the counselor at the appropriate office.

Merva Hamilton, B.A. -- Merva has recently immigrated to Canada from Jamaica. Where she has acquired a vast amount of teaching experience.

Currently her credentials and experience are being evaluated through the Canadian Educational System. She is willing to tutor students from Grades 4 to 12 in Math, English, Biology, and Reading. Although her preference is to work in the educational field she is willing to work in other fields to build her Canadian experience. Education and Experience: B.A Social Sciences & History. Teaching Certificate. Early Childhood Education Certificate. Jamaica Computer Society Foundation Certificate. 15yrs. of Teaching, Coordinating and Supervising Science and Math department.

Melbourne Drummond -- Melbourne came to Canada as an agricultural worker a few years ago. He owned a business and has experience in construction, farming and butchering.

Carl Notice -- Carl recently arrived in Canada. He has many years of experience driving different motor vehicles. However, he is willing to gain working experience through other opportunities. Experience: Driving, (Ambulance and Truck) Courier Service, Welding, Automechanic, Crane operator. Willing to do anything.

Contact **Lisa Chin Quee** - Scarborough Office, (416)396-3365, for more information about the above persons.

Christine Jardine -- Christine is seeking employment in customer service, office administration, or banking. Christine also has well developed managerial skills, this combined with her interpersonal and communication skills would make her an asset

to any organization.

Phyllis Jones -- Phyllis has recently migrated from Grenada. She has over 12 years accounts payable /receivable experience. She has an excellent track record of turning over additional profits for her employers. Phyllis has well developed customer service and reception skills. Her career objective is to become a certified accountant.

Randolph James -- Randolph has obtained his diploma in Business Education from Jamaica. He has a sound knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 & Lotus 1-2-3. He is seeking entry positions in customer service, Business Industry, Community groups/organizations, restaurants, and hotels.

Contact **Heather Williams, CYFS, (416) 740-1558** for information about the above persons.

What Networking Can Do. On December 11, 1995 Stanley Braithwaite, MA graciously donated his time and expertise to facilitate a job search strategies workshop, for ISAP clients. Mr. Braithwaite is currently an instructor at George Brown College in the Job Search Strategies, Career Counselling & Workplace Program. He is also a consultant for the Fred Victor Centre for Job Search Strategies and Business Communication. Furthermore, he is an instructor at Ryerson Polytechnic University teaching in oral, written and organizational communications in the Business & Technical Communications Department. This initial relationship has spawned

Open letter to the community, from page 6

make the system more accountable.

3. This means that human rights groups and community organizations may have to resort to legal and political mechanisms outside of Ontario, both at the national and the international level. The fact remains that Canada is a signatory to various international convention which require national action to eliminate racial discrimination, and is, therefore, legally bound to protect and promote the human rights of Canadians of African and Caribbean heritage. Our national leaders have a legal and moral obligation to

honor the country's commitments to its racial and national minorities.

The JCA believes that the Black and Caribbean community has the resilience, the strength and the creativity to put ourselves in a better position to protect our children. We, therefore, call upon the community to take stock of these two tragedies and to begin considering new ways of planning and responding to the social forces which often work against our best interests. We need to strengthen our efforts to educate and empower our youth. Their self-destructive actions

should be seen as indicators of the need for redoubled efforts. We also need to direct our sorrow and anger strategically to make an impact. Note that tragic events (such as we are experiencing) are a temporary manifestation of historical forces that are continuously at work. Be assured that as your community organization, the JCA is engaged in a process of deliberations and that we intend to act decisively and strategically; based upon a plan of action, for the upliftment of our people in the 21st century.

ISAP news, from page 9

reciprocal benefits between Mr. Braitwaite and the JCA. He has always wanted to work and give back to the community. Through this initiative he is able to contribute his skills and talent to the community. As well, students in the Career Counselling and Workplace Program will be able to use these sessions to acquire practical experience. JCA benefits from reliable and expert advice at a free or minimal charge.

Scarborough ISAP has now expanded to Malvern Family Resource Centre and currently works out of the Scarborough Town Centre (Youth Resource Centre) and Porter Collegiate Institute.

On the beat goes on. Well December was a hectic month for us at JCA, the counsellors organized a Food & Winter Clothing Drive, as well as a Financial planning workshop to help clients deal with Mike Harris' cuts.

Healthy Communities, from page 5

sented in collaboration with Lawrence Heights Community Centre and facilitated by a mixed gender team of professionals. A group of youth came together and discussed their health concerns.

Peer Pressure and Sexual Harassment: (November 16) This workshop was held at The Malvern Family Resource Centre in Collaboration with Scarborough Parks and Recreation Department - Life Skills Program and Planned Parenthood. Approximately 50 youths attended age 12-14. Participation was high and most of the students indicated they enjoyed the presentation.

Racism in the School System: (November 25) This was one of several workshops held at an all day youth conference. A collaborative project between JCA and Lawrence Heights Community Centre which analyzed racism in the media, schools and health care. Fifteen students participated in the workshop.

Alzheimer's Disease: (January 9, 1996) This workshop was held for Caribbean seniors at the JCA office. It was facilitated by Mary Ann Chang, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Society for Metropolitan Toronto. The definition, symptoms, incidence, treatment and support mechanisms were dealt with in detail. Participation by the seniors was high with 43 in attendance. City TV filmed part of the workshop which was aired on the evening news.

Future Projects: March 26, 1996-JCA office 5:30-8:30 p.m.: Report on Beijing Conference April 26, 1996-JCA office 6:30-9:30 p.m.: Black Male Health Issues.

Financial Planning- Date to be announced

The Women's Committee plans on developing a manual for the Organization on Women's, Children's and Family Issues.

The inequity against abused women

By Rita McLean, Assault/Sexual Abuse Counsellor

Over the past years, women have fought to break the silence that has surrounded the issue of women abuse. Through education, information and support, women who did not know how to access housing, child care programs, the justice system and how to return to school are now taking advantage of their newly-found resources. Their lives have been greatly improved and they are now able to build a violence-free life for themselves and their children.

In the last several months, we have seen the dismantling of an entire support system as a result of government spending cuts. The result of this will be increased threats to women and children by male abusers who will be able to maintain their power and control over women because of dependency.

Without adequate child care, women cannot look for work in order to become independent and self-supporting. The cuts are hurting women much more than they do men. Women will be forced to remain with their abusive partners due to the lack of economic supports, affordable housing, child care and second stage shelters.

The provincial government says it would not be cutting emergency shelters, but instead will cut counselling and wife assault prevention programs. Shelters are an immediate crisis and band-aid response to abuse women. The government is touting its "Victim's Bill of Rights", but without informa-

tion and accessible support services, these "rights" are meaningless. It is precisely these areas that are being cut by the Government, which will bring about violence-free life for women and children in the long term were they to remain in effect.

With culturally-sensitive and accessible counselling and support for women terminated, the culture barriers they face, women will be left with no place to turn for information, support and protection.

The cycle of violence that has existed through many generations will only continue without prevention programs to raise awareness. Criminal sanctions against abusers are meaningless without intervention programs for male batterers, which, by the way, are being increasingly mandated by the court system.

The provincial government claims that it places "safe communities" as one of its three priorities. Is it aware that violence in the home is a major proportion of all crimes committed? According to the Metro Women Abuse Protocol, the most recent statistics show that "50% of all women over the age of 16 have experienced abuse at the hands of an intimate partner, and 50% of all emergency room visits are caused by assault and abuse of women by intimate partners. Sixty-two per cent of all women murdered are murdered by their partners".

The impact of government spending cuts will significantly decrease safety for women and

children in their own homes. It is the right of all women and children to live free from violence. It is necessary for a healthy community and it benefits everyone. There must be a community-wide commitment to ensure that children and women live in a world free of domestic violence. That is common sense.

Coming Events

Wife assault within the family unit, the neglected issues. Wednesday, March 20, 1996. 8:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), 252 College Street.

Sexual Assault Public Education. Monday, March 18, 1996. 8:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), 252 College Street.

For further information, phone: Rita, 661-200. All are welcome

The JCA Program for Violence Against Women

Services are free and confidential.

Immediate appointments available.

For further information, phone

Rita, McLean, Counsellor (416) 661-2001.

1996 JCA bingo schedule

Date	Time	Coordinator
Feb. 24	1:00 to 3:00.	M. Amiel
Mar. 1	10:15 to 9:15	B. Carter
Mar. 8	10:15 to 12:15	N.L. Bailey
Mar. 23	1:00 to 3:00	M. Amiel
Apr. 5	7:15 to 9:15	B. Carter
Apr. 20	10:15 to 12:15	N.L. Bailey
May 4	1:00 to 3:00	M. Amiel
May 11	1:00 to 3:00	B. Carter
May 17	10:15 to 12:15	N.L. Bailey
Jun. 7	7:15 to 9:15	M. Amiel
Jun. 22	1:00 to 3:00	B. Carter

Bun & cheese party

The Social Committee would like to announce that starting this year we will resume the Children's Bun and Cheese party. The scheduled date is **April 6, at 2:00 - 6:00 pm.** For further information please call 661-2001.

There will be a program of Easter entertainment, prizes and surprises - bring the children out for and afternoon of fun.

Given the tough economic times and our tight budget, JCA will be relying on its members for support. A minimum donation of one dollar is requested from each parent, to help with expenses. All are welcome to attend, especially children up to age 12.

Black CAP (416) 971-7588

The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention is a coalition of Black community organizations who come together to address the issue of AIDS in our communities.

CALENDAR 96

Quarterly Meeting Mar. 10
Bun & Cheese Party Apr. 6
Community Walk-a-thon May 5
Mother's Day Brunch May 12
Annual General Meeting May 26
Annual Picnic July 7
Flag-Raising Ceremony Aug. 4
Independence Service .. Aug. 4
Independence Dinner Aug. 10
New Years Eve Dinner .. Dec. 31

Caribbean Canadian Seniors Group 1122 Finch Ave. W.

**Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**We welcome all
seniors who would like to
get out and meet others.**

**Our activities include:
art and crafts, choral
group, discussions, semi-
nars and field trips.**

**Come and meet people who
will treat you like family
and a friend.**

**For more information,
please call us at
661-2001.**

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